

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
SECSTATE WASHDC 8656

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POST FOR DEA, DEA HQS PASS EVANS/EN, DOYLE/ENOF, OLIVANTI/TR,
STATE PASS R. SLUTZ, S/NM, D. FIELD, EA/TIMBS FROM A/SAIC
GUTENSOHN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: DEA EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM

REF: DEA 1608 181555Z JAN 78

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL:

A. THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS SERVICE,
WHICH IS CHARGED WITH THE INTERDICTION OF DRUG ABUSE AT ALL
LEVELS, COMES DIRECTLY UNDER SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT PRISK'S
CONTROL. UNLIKE MOST CUSTOMS ORGANIZATIONS, THE HONG
KONG CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS FULL POLICE POWERS WITH REGARD
TO NARCOTIC OFFENCES. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THEY ARE ACTIVE
IN ALL AREAS OF DRUG ABUSE AND TAKE ACTION AGAINST
SYNDICATES INVOLVED IN THE IMPORT, EXPORT, MANUFACTURE,
AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTICS. THIS SERVICE ALSO TAKES
ACTION AT STREET LEVEL AGAINST ADDICTS, PEDDLERS, BROKERS,
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ETC. IN ESSENCE, THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF THIS
SERVICE OPERATES ON A PAR WITH THE NARCOTICS BUREAU
OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG POLICE AND, THEREFORE, IT IS
FELT THAT THE WORK UNDERTAKEN BY SR. SUPT. PRISK AND
THE OFFICERS UNDER HIS COMMAND IS MORE CLOSELY RELATED
TO THAT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION THAN
THAT OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE.

B. IN THE OPERATIONAL SECTION OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE
SR. SUPT. PRISK RANKS SECOND TO THE ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER ROY HATTON AND IS RESPONSIBLE TO HATTON
FOR ALL NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED
BY THE SERVICE.

C. SR. SUPT. PRISK ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE OPERATIONS
BRANCH OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE IN OCTOBER OF 1977. FOR
SEVERAL YEARS PRIOR TO THIS APPOINTMENT PRISK WAS THE
COMMANDER OF THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND
EXCISE. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU
ARE COVERED IN PARA. A.

D. THE HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE AND THE
HONG KONG DISTRICT OFFICE ENJOY A CLOSE WORKING
RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A USEFUL EXCHANGE
OF INFORMATION, AS WELL AS ACHIEVING RESULTS IN
JOINT OPERATIONS. A RECENT COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATION
RESULTED IN THE SEIZURE OF 35 POUNDS OF 3 HEROIN, TWO
VEHICLES AND THE ARREST OF ONE DEFENDANT. ON SHORT
NOTICE THE INVESTIGATION BUREAU MOBILIZED 30 OFFICERS
TO WORK ON THE CASE. THE APPROVAL OF THIS EXECUTIVE
OBSERVATION PROGRAM CAN ONLY ADD TO THE EXCELLENT
WORKING RELATIONSHIP NOW ENJOYED BY THE HONG KONG
DISTRICT OFFICE AND HONG KONG CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.
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E. AS MENTIONED ABOVE, SR. SUPT. PRISK IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALL ANTI-NARCOTIC ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY CUSTOMS
AND EXCISE. A/SAIC J.R. GUTENSOHN HAS DISCUSSED
THE EXECUTIVE OBSERVATION PROGRAM WITH ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER ROY HATTON AND THE BENEFITS THIS PROGRAM
WOULD HAVE FOR A CUSTOMS OFFICER. COMMISSIONER HATTON
STATED THAT ANY PROGRAM WHICH COULD ADD TO THE
EXPERTISE OF HIS SENIOR STAFF WOULD BE WELCOMED. HE
FURTHER STATED THAT THE PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY THE
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE WERE NOT DESIGNED TO MEET THE
TRAINING REQUIREMENTS OF HIS INVESTIGATION BUREAU.
DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT BY DEA. SHOESMITH

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